

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for processing a print stream through a printer driver, comprising:

providing an interface module that interfaces with the printer driver;

5 registering at least one add-on module with said interface module.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said registering comprises:

receiving property information at said interface module from each said add-on

module; and

10 storing said property information.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said registering is independent from the printer driver.

15 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a call from the printer driver indicating that a print job is initiated;

determining whether any of said add-on modules are responsive to said call;

and

in response to determining that at least one add-on module is responsive,

20 sequentially connecting said at least one responsive add-on module to the printer driver via said interface module.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said at least one responsive add-on module is adapted to modify a user interface generated by the printer driver.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the print stream comprises at least one access

5 point, further comprising:

receiving a call from the printer driver indicating that an access point has been reached;

determining whether any of said add-on modules are responsive to said call; and

10 in response to determining that at least one add-on module is responsive,

sequentially connecting said at least one responsive add-on module to the printer driver via said interface module.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said at least one responsive add-on module inserts

15 data into the print stream at said access point.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said at least one responsive add-on module inserts a command into the print stream at said access point.

20 9. The method of claim 6, wherein said at least one responsive add-on module transmits a command to the printer driver.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein said at least one access point is selected from the group consisting of a document start, a document end, a physical page start, a physical page end, a logical page start, and a logical page end.

5 11. The method of claim 6, wherein said at least one access point is dynamically selectable.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the printer driver has at least one setting, further comprising:

10 querying the printer driver from at least one said add-on module about at least one said setting, and

receiving information from the printer driver in response to said querying.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein at least one said add-on module comprises at least one setting, further comprising changing a setting in at least one said add-on module in response to said received information.

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14. The method of claim 1, wherein the printer driver has at least one setting, further comprising changing at least one said setting of the printer driver through said interface module under the control of at least one said add-on module.

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15. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing at least one additional printer driver and a corresponding additional interface module for each additional printer

driver, wherein at least one add-on module is registered with a plurality of said interface modules.

16. A computer program product for use in an information handling system, where an operating system environment is present on the information handling system, and at least one add-on module interfaces with a printer driver through an interface module within the operating system environment, the computer program product comprising:

instructions for registering at least one add-on module with the interface module.

17. The computer program product of claim 16, further comprising:

instructions for receiving a call from the printer driver indicating that a print job is initiated;

instructions for determining whether any of said add-on modules are responsive to said call; and

in response to determining that at least one add-on module is responsive,

instructions for sequentially connecting said at least one responsive add-on module to the printer driver via said interface module.

18. The computer program product of claim 16, further comprising:

instructions for receiving a call from the printer driver indicating that an access point has been reached;

instructions for determining whether any of said add-on modules are responsive to said call; and

in response to determining that at least one add-on module is responsive,
instructions for sequentially connecting said at least one responsive
add-on module to the printer driver via said interface module.

- 5 19. The computer program product of claim 16, further comprising:
instructions for querying the printer driver about at least one setting therein;
and
instructions for receiving information from the printer driver in response to
said querying.

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20. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the printer driver has at least
one setting, further comprising instructions for changing at least one said setting of the
printer driver through said interface module under the control of at least one said add-
on module.

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